

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Masao Okano, et al.

Serial No. : 10/829,049                      Group Art Unit: 1744

Filed : April 21, 2004                      Examiner: Randall E. Chin

For : **PRESSURE PAD FOR CLEANING FABRIC**

Mail Stop \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Official Action due September 1, 2006 requiring an election of species, Applicants respectfully submit the following response.

**I.                The Examiner's Election Requirement**

The Examiner has noted that this application contains claims directed to the following species:

- 1) Figs. 1-8
- 2) Figs. 9-13
- 3) Figs. 14.

Accordingly, the Examiner has required Applicants to elect a single disclosed species, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, for prosecution. No claims were noted by the Examiner as being generic.

**II.              Applicants' Election of Species**

Applicants respectfully disagree that the Examiner's requirement is proper. However, in order to facilitate prosecution and to avoid a holding of non-responsiveness

in this application, applicants elect with traverse to pursue prosecution of **Figs. 1-8 and Claims 1-5, 7, 12, 13, 16, 17 and 22.**

Should any of these claims be found generic and allowed, it is noted that the Applicants are entitled to a reasonable number of species. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this election requirement if such a claim is found. In the event that the Examiner does not withdraw the requirement, Applicants expressly reserve the right to timely file a divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter.

### **III. Applicants' Traversal**

This election is made with traverse. Applicants respectfully submit that: (1) all groups of claims and figures are properly presented in the same application; (2) undue diverse searching should not be required since all the claims and figures are in the same class; and (3) all claims and figures should be examined together. For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the election requirement should be withdrawn and should be examined together to expedite the patent processes in accordance with U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Business Goals and an action on the merits of all the claims is respectfully solicited.

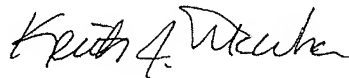
If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

**AUTHORIZATION**

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for this response to Deposit Account **13-4500**, Order No. **0140-4224**, and is hereby petitioned for any extension of time that may be required to make this response timely. **A DUPLICATE OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.**

Respectfully submitted,  
**MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.**

Date: August 31, 2006

By: 

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